

The soil of Mitchell is mostly fertile, the timber of large size and of great variety. The cereals grow to great perfection. Apples, peaches, pears, cherries and grapes are of great excellence, and much of the land proves well adapted to the production of very fine tobacco. The grasses flourish, and cattle are reared for market in considerable numbers.

The mineral products of this county are confined at present to mica and iron; copper and other metals have been found. The famous Cranberry mines are in the northeastern corner of the county, and now extensively worked. They are connected by railroad with the Norfolk and Southern railroad at Johnson City, Tennessee.

The mica mines are the most extensive in the United States, and produce a large proportion of the mica put on the market. The most productive mines are those once worked by an aboriginal race.

Tobacco of fine quality is grown to considerable extent, the average crop being about 50,000 pounds. The timber industry is a great and growing one.

In this county is the Roan mountain, 6,334 feet high, on whose long grass-covered summit is a fine hotel, made easily accessible, and one of the most, if not the most, elevated health and pleasure resorts in the United States.

Bakersville, the county seat, has a population of about 400, and Elk Park of 350.

Mitchell county has 194,119 acres of land, valued at \$606,963, and 373 town lots, valued at \$5,974.

Of domestic animals there are—1,723 horses; 533 mules; 6,583 cattle; 5,806 hogs; 8,087 sheep.

Product of taxation—for State use, \$1,987.69; pensions, \$475.60; schools, \$4,324.52; county, \$6,381.26.

Population—white, 12,252; colored, 555; total, 12,807.

### MONTGOMERY.

In its topographical features, Montgomery county may be described in nearly the same terms as Chatham. Several low chains of mountains or high ranges of slate hills cross the county in a direction nearly north and south. The county is drained by the Yadkin river and two of its chief tributaries—the Uwharrie and Little rivers. Its territory therefore, in river sections, is quite broken in surface. Its soils are mostly sandy and gravelly loams with occasional tracts of red clays. Centrally and extending to and along the eastern border there are large bodies of valuable long-leaf pine timber, while the other sections abound in hard woods. In the long-leaf pine section the soil is usually lean, but open and excellent for trucking and fruit culture, being much the same as that at Southern Pines, but a little better. From Troy across the county south is the cotton growing section, while the other sections are best adapted to corn, wheat and other cereals, grasses and fruits.

The water power of its rivers is very great, the Yadkin having a fall within the county of more than two hundred feet, and a force per foot of above three hundred and fifty horse power. There are many